



## ***NOAA in the District of Columbia***



***NOAA is an agency that enriches life through science. Our reach goes from the surface of the sun to the depths of the ocean floor as we work to keep citizens informed of the changing environment around them. From daily weather forecasts, severe storm warnings, and climate monitoring to fisheries management, coastal restoration and supporting marine commerce, NOAA's products and services support economic vitality and affect more than one-third of America's gross domestic product. NOAA's dedicated scientists use cutting-edge research and high-tech instrumentation to provide citizens, planners, emergency managers and other decision makers with reliable information they need when they need it.***

***The following is a summary of NOAA facilities, staff, programs, or activities based in, or focused on, your state or territory: Starting with highlights and then district [wide programs](#).***

### ***Highlights of NOAA in the District of Columbia***

[National Systematics Laboratory](#) DC

[Joint Agriculture Weather Facility](#) DC

[NOAA Headquarters](#) DC

[Sant Ocean Hall](#) DC

[Science On a Sphere at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History & at the National Zoo](#) DC

The District of Columbia also has eight NOAA Headquarters Offices and one Science on a Sphere® exhibition.

## DC

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Northeast Fisheries Science Center](#)**

NMFS is responsible for the management, conservation and protection of living marine resources within the United States' Exclusive Economic Zone (water three to 200 mile offshore). Using the tools provided by the *Magnuson-Stevens Act*, NMFS assesses and predicts the status of fish stocks, develops and ensures compliance with fisheries regulations, restores and protects habitat and works to reduce wasteful fishing practices, and promotes sustainable fisheries. Under the *Marine Mammal Protection Act* and the *Endangered Species Act*, NMFS recovers protected marine species (e.g. whales, turtles). The Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office (located in Gloucester, MA) includes divisions that promote sustainable fisheries, habitat conservation, and recovery of protected species, and conducts statistical analysis and programs supporting these divisions. Key fish species managed in the Greater Atlantic Region include the northeast "multispecies complex" (cod, haddock, yellowtail flounder etc.), Atlantic sea scallops, herring, lobster, and summer flounder. Key marine endangered species in this region are North Atlantic right whales, leatherback, loggerhead, and Kemp's ridley sea turtles, Atlantic salmon and Atlantic and shortnose sturgeon.

NMFS is the lead agency coordinating the Large Whale and Sea Turtle Disentanglement Program activities and the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program activities. The core functions of these programs include coordinating volunteer networks to: respond to entanglements and strandings, investigate mortality events, and conduct biomonitoring, tissue/serum banking, and analytical quality assurance. The Northeast Science Center (headquartered in Woods Hole, MA) focuses on collection, analysis, and presentation of scientific information about the Northeast Shelf ecosystem, its condition, and its marine life. In addition to its five laboratories, the Center uses four research vessels to support its work. They are: the NOAA ships *Henry B. Bigelow*, and the small research vessels *Gloria Michelle*, *Victor Loosanoff*, and *Nauvoo*. The Greater Atlantic Fisheries Regional Office and the Science Center are responsible for the District of Columbia and the following states: Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina; and the inland states of Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Systematics Laboratory](#)**

The National Systematic Laboratory studies fishes, crustaceans, squids, sponges, jellyfish, and corals. As part of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, located on the National Mall in Washington, DC, its major research activities are to describe new species, to catalogue and revise groups of species so they can be correctly identified, and to study the evolutionary relationships among species. Staff hold adjunct positions at the National Museum and curate the museum's fish collection, by far the world's largest, with some 4 million specimens.

### **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [Chesapeake Bay Watershed Education and Training Program](#)**

The NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is an environmental education program that promotes locally relevant, experiential learning in the K-12 environment. The NOAA Chesapeake Bay Office, a division of NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation, administers B-WET grants for the Chesapeake Bay watershed on behalf of the NOAA Office of Education. The primary delivery of B-WET is through competitive funding that promotes systemic Meaningful Watershed Educational Experiences (MWEEs). The Chesapeake B-WET program recognizes that knowledge and commitment built from firsthand experience, especially in the context of one's community and culture, is essential for achieving environmental stewardship. Chesapeake B-WET responds to regional education and environmental priorities through local implementation of competitive grant funds and is supportive of partnerships between school districts and community organizations and institutions that are run by and/or serve marginalized groups, particularly minority communities.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - [National Marine Mammal Stranding Network](#) and [John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program](#)**

The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There is one stranding network member in the District. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Although Prescott grants have been awarded to recipients in DC in previous years, no grants were awarded in FY20. Nationwide, 43 competitive grants were awarded for a total of \$3.7 million.

**National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#)**

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources. DARRP assesses and restores habitat, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses that have been harmed by oil spills, chemical releases, and ship groundings. Working with federal, state, and tribal entities, and responsible parties, we have recovered funding from responsible parties for restoration of critical habitats, fisheries, protected species and recreational uses nationwide. This Program collaborates on an ongoing basis with federal, state, and tribal entities, including in the District of Columbia. The Program also works with cleanup agencies (such as the Environmental Protection Agency), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to protect coastal and marine natural resources; respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances; assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Regional Geodetic Advisor](#)**

The Regional Geodetic Advisor is a National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in a region and serves as a liaison between the National Geodetic Survey (NGS) and its public, academic and private sector constituents within their assigned region. NGS has a Regional Geodetic Advisor stationed in Raleigh, North Carolina serving the Mid-Atlantic region including Washington D.C. The Geodetic Advisor provides training, guidance and assistance to constituents managing geospatial activities that are tied to the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), the framework and coordinate system for all positioning activities in the Nation. The Geodetic Advisor serves as a subject matter expert in geodesy and regional geodetic issues, collaborating internally across NOS and NOAA to ensure that all regional geospatial activities are properly referenced to the NSRS.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [National Water Level Observation Network](#)**

NOS operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in Washington, DC, which provides data and information on tidal data and relative sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. Each station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office of Coast Survey - [Navigation Manager](#)**

NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Washington, DC. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Washington, DC and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Silver Spring, MD to support mariners and stakeholders in the Chesapeake and Delaware Bay region.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - Office of Coast Survey - [NOAA Survey Vessel Bay Hydrographer II](#)**

The Office of Coast Survey operates the NOAA Survey Vessel *Bay Hydrographer II* to acquire hydrographic survey data off the U.S. Atlantic coast, concentrating primarily in the Chesapeake Bay. The vessel is home-ported in Solomons, Maryland. The *Bay Hydrographer II* is equipped with state-of-the-art hydrographic and navigation equipment to detect submerged wrecks and obstructions are used to update NOAA's nautical charts in the Chesapeake Bay area. The Office of Coast Survey also uses the *Bay Hydrographer II* as its primary platform to test and evaluate new and emerging hydrographic survey technologies like uncrewed systems —multiplying the amount of data NOAA's survey fleet collects. This vessel is also able to serve as a navigation response team when required.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Scientific Support Coordinator and Regional Support Coordinator](#)**

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) brings decades of experience, technical expertise and scientific analysis in response to oil and hazardous chemical spills. In addition to events that draw the national eye, OR&R also supports response to local emergencies. Eleven regionally based Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) harness the input of a multi-disciplinary team to address issues such as oil slick trajectory forecasting, environmental tradeoffs, best practices, resources at risk, oil science and properties, and chemical hazard assessment to reduce risks to coastal habitats and resources. The SSC works directly with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide critical scientific support to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator. OR&R also helps develop preparedness plans that identify spill response actions with the greatest environmental benefit and trains hundreds of members of the response community each year on the scientific and technical aspects of spills.

OR&R's Regional Resource Coordinators (RRCs) provide scientific and technical expertise and timely response to oil spills or hazardous materials releases to collect information, samples, and evidence that are time dependent and critical to support natural resource damage assessments throughout the coastal US. RRCs work on multi-disciplinary scientific, economic, and legal teams and are responsible for determining and quantifying injuries to NOAA trust natural resources through determination of injuries and pathway, and demonstration of causal mechanisms. The goal of the RRCs' efforts is to determine, often through the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program, the appropriate amount and type of restoration required to restore injured NOAA trust resources and compensate the public for their lost use.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - [Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships](#)**

The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry. The MDP Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator supports coordination efforts with regional stakeholders, provides support to grant-funded projects, tracks progress of projects, and conducts regional marine debris outreach to local audiences. In the District of Columbia, the MDP, in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, is supporting a research project to analyze microplastic samples in the Anacostia River and share results with the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment. The MDP is working with the District of Columbia government and stakeholders to develop the Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan, which will provide a road map for strategic progress in making the Mid-Atlantic, its coasts, people, and wildlife free from the impacts of marine debris.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Automated Surface Observing Systems Station](#)**

The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS

works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There is one ASOS station in the District.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [Digital Coast](#)**

The Digital Coast is a focused information resource developed to meet the unique needs of coastal communities. Developed and maintained by NOAA's Office for Coastal Management, content comes from hundreds of organizations, including federal, state, and local agencies, plus private sector and non-profit contributors. The Digital Coast website provides not only site-specific coastal data, but also related the tools, training, and information needed to make these data useful for coastal decision makers.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) – [National Coastal Resilience Fund](#)**

The National Coastal Resilience Fund is a partnership effort between NOAA and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to restore, increase, and strengthen natural infrastructure to protect coastal communities, while also enhancing habitat for fish and wildlife. In the District of Columbia, the NCRF awarded a project in FY19 to conduct an environmental assessment and develop preliminary designs for over 16,000ft of restored stream and wetland creation for Oxon Run.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitter](#)**

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information.

In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states and the District of Columbia, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There is one NWR transmitter in the District.

**National Weather Service (NWS) - [Joint Agriculture Weather Facility](#)**

Housed at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Headquarters in Washington, D.C., the NWS meteorologists at the Joint Agriculture Weather Facility (JAWF) provides global weather data, products, and expertise in interpretation of weather forecast models around the world. USDA uses that information and global agronomic data to arrive at the weather impact on global agricultural production. The information is provided to ensure Nation's growers, exporters, USDA commodity analysts, as well as the Secretary of Agriculture and senior government officials are informed of worldwide weather developments and their effects on crops and livestock.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Chief Financial Officer](#)**

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) serves as the principal financial manager. The CFO's Office has the responsibility under the CFO act to provide the leadership necessary for NOAA to obtain a yearly-unqualified opinion in the audit of its consolidated financial statements. The areas under the direction of the CFO are the Budget and Finance Offices.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Communications and External Affairs](#)**

The Office of Communications and External Affairs coordinates media relations, stakeholder relationships, and select internal communications at the corporate NOAA level and also organizes messaging and promotion by working closely with the Line Offices. Products provided by the Office of Communications include news releases, news conferences, web editorial management, video presentations, and editorial articles. Some of the services provided by the Office include media training, constituent relations, and exhibits management.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Education](#)**

NOAA's Office of Education provides advice and counsel to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere in matters pertaining to education. The office, in conjunction with the Education Council, coordinates educational activities across NOAA and develops NOAA's Education Strategic Plan and policy. These efforts help to ensure that NOAA's education programs and activities are based on the best science available and support the agency's cross-cutting objective of an engaged and educated public with an improved capacity to make scientifically informed environmental decisions. The Office of Education directly implements and manages scholarship programs aimed at fostering American competitiveness in science by providing quality educational opportunities for the next generation. The Office of Education also offers competitive grant programs at the national and regional level to promote environmental literacy efforts through collaboration with external partners. Such competitive education programs managed by the Office of Education include the Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program and the Environmental Literacy Grants (ELG) Program.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of General Counsel](#)**

The Office of General Counsel provides legal advice and counsel for NOAA. The General Counsel is appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, with the approval of the President. The Office of the General Counsel provides legal service and guidance for all matters that may arise in the conduct of NOAA's missions and is comprised of a team of professionals advancing the mission and objectives of NOAA by delivering legal services of the highest quality.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Chief Information Officer \(OCIO\)](#)**

Washington, DC is one of five NOAA Trusted Internet Connection Access Points which provide the security analytics required to ensure secure communication with untrusted networks. TICAPs are NOAA's first line of defense for protecting NOAA's mission from external cyber-attacks.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of International Affairs](#)**

NOAA's Office of International Affairs (OIA) engages internationally to support, promote and advance national policies and interests on the international scale. Through building international partnerships, NOAA is able to leverage important foreign resources and capabilities to advance NOAA's mission and priorities. To ensure that NOAA is able to respond effectively to its global challenge, the international affairs of the agency is coordinated through an International Affairs Council (IAC). The office, in conjunction with the IAC, coordinates international activities across NOAA. OIA also advises senior NOAA and Department of Commerce officials on critical international matters.

**NOAA Headquarters - [Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#)**

NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs (OLIA) coordinates all NOAA contacts with the United States Congress and is responsible for planning, directing, and coordinating legislative programs that are of concern to the Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and the Administration. As the official liaison between the NOAA and the Congress, the OLIA communicates the Administration's views and is proactive in notifying Congress of important NOAA developments. Conversely, the OLIA keeps senior NOAA and Department of Commerce officials informed of critical congressional information and activities.



### **NOAA Headquarters - [Office of the Under Secretary](#)**

The Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator is located in downtown DC in the Department of Commerce's Herbert C. Hoover Building. The Office of the Under Secretary oversees all NOAA Line, Staff, and Program office and activities and also houses the offices of other members of NOAA's senior leadership team. The Office is also supported by the Program Coordination Office (PCO), which is staffed by participants in the PCO-LDP (a competitive, approximately year-long NOAA leadership development program). The program provides an intense training and learning experience for mid-career NOAA employees who have high potential for assuming greater leadership responsibilities in the agency.

### **NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps (NOAA Corps) - [Leadership and Staff Support](#)**

The NOAA Commissioned Officer Corps stations a host of officers in the District of Columbia in various leadership roles and staff support roles. The range of assignments includes liaisons to the USCG and US Navy, the Director of the NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Executive Director to the Deputy Undersecretary, and various aide positions within the organizational structure. As such, NOAA Corps Officers form an integral part of the administrative framework within NOAA.

### **NOAA-wide - [Sant Ocean Hall](#)**

NOAA has worked with the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History to create the Sant Ocean Hall to engage, educate, and inspire the public through state-of-the-art displays. The Ocean Hall is one component of NOAA's Ocean Science Initiative intended to educate and inform the public and expand our understanding of the Earth's oceans.

### **NOAA Office of Education - [Environmental Literacy Program](#)**

NOAA's Environmental Literacy Program (ELP), administered by the Office of Education, provides grants and in-kind support to advance NOAA's mission through formal (K-12) and informal education. In the District of Columbia, ELP funded the National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), a program that uses a quiz bowl competition, along with supporting educational activities for students and teachers, to develop the next generation of ocean scientists, stewards, and leaders. The NOSB is managed by the Consortium for Ocean Leadership (District of Columbia), a non-profit and supported by 25 research institutions, federal laboratories, state Sea Grant programs, and aquaria across the United States. The NOSB develops knowledgeable ocean stewards that understand the ocean's impact on daily life and the importance of scientific research. ELP supports the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (District of Columbia), which has a permanent exhibit featuring NOAA's Science On a Sphere (SOS) and is a member of NOAA's SOS Users Collaborative Network (SOS Network). The SOS Network connects over 150 science education institutions worldwide to the latest NOAA data as part of a focused effort to increase environmental literacy at all ages. ELP supports the American Meteorological Society's DataStreme courses for K-12 educators through a grant and in-kind support. These courses use weather, climate, and the ocean as contexts for teaching science and improving understanding about the Earth system.

### **NOAA Office of Education - [NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology](#)**

The NOAA Center for Atmospheric Sciences & Meteorology is led by Howard University in collaboration with eight partners: Jackson State University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Texas at El Paso, the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, the State University of New York at Albany, the University of Maryland College Park, San Jose State University, and the University of Maryland Baltimore County. This center is supported through a cooperative agreement award from NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions as a future workforce investment toward NOAA's mission. The award is to expand participation in education, training, capacity building, and collaborative research focusing on groups that are traditionally underrepresented in NOAA mission-relevant Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), natural resources management, and policy disciplines. The Center's

research improves the accuracy of weather and climate forecast models; studies atmospheric chemical processes and their effects on local, regional, and global scales; and produces highly educated and skilled students from underrepresented communities for research and operational careers in weather and climate prediction. The Center's primary collaborator is the National Weather Service.

**Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - [Science On a Sphere at Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History & at the National Zoo](#)**

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating what are sometimes complex environmental processes.

**National Ocean Service (NOS) - Students for [Zero Waste Week](#)**

Students are inviting their local communities to "Go Green and Think Blue" by joining them in the annual *Students for Zero Waste Week campaign*. During this campaign led by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, students focus on reducing land-based waste in order to protect the health of local marine environments. These young leaders are raising awareness of how single-use plastic and other types of litter affect the health of local watersheds, national marine sanctuaries, and the ocean. In addition, some schools are looking at ways to reduce their energy use on campus with hopes of raising awareness of how the burning of fossil fuels also impacts the health of the ocean.

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**NOAA In Your State** is managed by [NOAA's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs](#) and maintained with information provided by NOAA's Line and Staff Offices. Questions about specific programs or offices should be directed to the NOAA Line or Staff Office listed.

More information for those offices may be found at [NOAA.gov](#).

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